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BRITAIN · AND · HER
NEIGHBOURS . Book II

TALES OF
LONG AGO



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BRITAIN AND HER NEIGHBOURS

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TALES OF LONG AGO

How Men and Women were found for Rome

I

1. You will remember the story of, Romulus, the man who built the city of Rome upon the hills near a river in Italy.

2. Now, a city needs people, and when Rome was first built there were very few people in it. Romulus knew that his city would not grow big and strong unless there were plenty of men to work for it, and to fight for it. He knew, too, that there must be women to spin and sew, to take care of the children, to cook, and to keep the houses tidy.

8 Men and Women for Rome

3. This story tells how he found men and women for Rome.

4. To begin with, he said that any person who liked to do so might come to Rome and make his home there. As soon as this was known, men came to the city from many places. Some of these men were good and honest. But others were bad men who had been turned out of their own cities because of the wrong things they had done:

5. Romulus let them all come into Rome, as he had promised to do. Perhaps he hoped the bad men would do better in their new home. A few of the men brought their wives and daughters with them, but most of them came alone. Romulus now had to find wives for these men.

6. At first he asked the people of other cities to let their daughters marry the Romans. But the people of the other

cities would not hear of such a thing.

"Your Romans are not good men," they said. "We will not let our daughters marry them."



The Roman Sports

7. When the men of Rome heard this saying, they made up their minds to get wives in another way. It was a very rough and rude way, but in those old days people did many rough and rude things.

10 Men and Women for Rome

8. The plan was to have a feast at Rome on a certain day, and to have games and sports. Romulus asked the men of two other cities to come to see the games and sports, and to bring their wives and children with them.

9. Many of these men came as they were asked to do. And with them came their wives, and the young men and maidens, their sons and daughters. It was a merry time, and all were gay and happy.

II

10. The visitors did not think of danger, as they walked to and fro in the fields of Rome, or stood in a crowd to look at the games and sports. But danger was near.

11. All at once there was a great noise and stir. Men ran to and fro and shouted; women screamed; the games

were stopped. What was the matter?

12. The young men of Rome had rushed into the crowd of visitors, and laid hold of the young maidens of the other cities. Each Roman had taken a maiden for himself, and was carrying her away to his house in the city to be his wife.

13. What a din there was! Fathers tried to save their daughters, and brothers tried to save their sisters. But it was of no use. The Romans drew their swords, and would not give up the maidens. That was the rough way in which women were found for the new city of Rome.

14. The rest of the visitors went home to their own cities, sad and angry. But the men soon came back to Rome with a large army of soldiers. They meant to fight until they had won their daughters and sisters back again.

15. The Romans shut themselves up in the strong places on the hills of their city. For some time the Romans kept their foes outside the walls, but one day they were beaten in a fight and the men of the other cities got into one of these strong places.

16. After that there were some fierce battles. The men of Rome fought fiercely for their wives, and the men of the other cities fought fiercely for their daughters and sisters. Sometimes one side won a battle, and sometimes the other. A great many men were killed, but the fighting still went on, for neither side would give in.

17. The Roman wives were very sad. They loved their fathers and brothers, but they now loved their husbands too, for they were very kind to them. These poor women could not bear to see their husbands and their fathers and brothers



The Peace-makers

killing each other. So they tried to make peace between them.

18. They rushed down into the battle-field, and threw themselves between the fierce men, and begged them to stop fighting for their sakes.

19. And because they loved their wives and their daughters, the husbands and fathers listened to the words of the

14 Men and Women for Rome

women. They stopped the battle, and became friends one with the other.

In this way peace was made by the women.

20. After that time a feast was held in Rome on one day in every year. It was called the Feast of the Women. On that day the Roman husbands gave presents to their wives, because of this good thing which they had done.



The Story of Marcius

I

1. Sometimes good and brave people, when they are very angry, do what is not right. There was once a great man of Rome who did a wrong thing when his heart was full of anger. His name was Marcius, and he was a very brave soldier.

2. Marcius loved Rome, and wished to make it a strong and great city. He led the Roman soldiers against their foes and won many battles.

3. The people of Rome loved Marcius for his brave deeds. They gave him a new long name of honour which you will learn some day.

4. But though Marcius was brave, he was not always wise and kind. Sometimes he did not treat the poor people fairly.



Roman Citizens

5. Poor people like to be free quite as much as rich people. Marcius treated them as if they were slaves. So they soon began to hate him. They said they would not bear to be treated in this way. But Marcius did not care what they said; he went on doing as he pleased.

6. Then the poor people hated him

more and more. After a time they forgot how much they owed him for his brave deeds, and turned him out of the city. His rich friends were afraid to try to help him. So Marcius left Rome for ever.

7. He was mad with anger. He was so angry that he forgot his love for Rome, and forgot that he wished to see it rich and great. He thought only of the wrong which the people had done to him. He made up his mind to punish them, by taking their city away from them and giving it to their foes.

8. This was not a good thing to do. It is not right for a man to try to hurt his own people and his own land. Marcius would not have done this thing if his heart had not been full of anger.

II

9. The angry Marcius went away to the foes of Rome and asked to see their leader. The leader's name was Tullus. He came out to speak to his visitor.

10. Then Marcius told Tullus that he had come to help him to take Rome away from the Romans.

11. Tullus knew well how strong and brave Marcius was, so he was glad to have his help. Soon a great army of soldiers was made ready, and Marcius led them to Rome.

12. The people of Rome were sorry for what they had done, when they heard that their old leader was coming to the city with a great army. They were afraid to fight against the brave and strong Marcius. So they sent ten of their chief men to meet him, and to beg him to forgive them.

them, these brave women and the little children knelt down upon the ground before him, and begged him to forgive the people of Rome, and to spare the city.

18. Marcius loved his mother and his wife and children. His heart was full of sadness to see them kneel before him, and he could not be angry with them.

19. Tears came into his eyes, and he lifted them up, and kissed them.

"Ah, Mother!" said he sadly, "you have saved Rome, but you have lost your son."

20. Marcius was right. He led the army of foes back to their own city, and Rome was saved. But Tullus was so angry with him for this deed that he killed him.

21. That was the end of the brave Marcius. He was a great man. But he would have been much greater if he had been kind as well as brave, and if he had not given way to anger.



The Slave and the Lion

I

1. We do not now think it right for anyone to be a slave. But in old days people saw no wrong in making men and women, and even little children, work for them as slaves.

2. The rich Romans kept many slaves to work in their houses, and gardens, and

fields. Some of the Roman masters and mistresses were kind to their slaves and made them happy. Others were cruel and treated their slaves very badly. They beat them if they did not do well. Sometimes they even killed them.

3. There was once a slave in Rome who had a very cruel master. This slave's name was Androclus. He was so unhappy that at last he ran away. He hid himself in a cave in a wild place, for he knew that his master would kill him if he found him.

4. By and by a lion came into the cave. It was limping, and seemed to be in great pain, and it roared loudly when it saw the slave.

5. The poor man was much afraid. He thought the lion would surely kill him and eat him. But the fierce beast did not even attack him. It stood still and held up its paw.

6. Then the slave saw that a sharp piece of wood was sticking in the lion's paw, which was swollen and sore. He was a kind man. He took the animal's paw in his hand, and gently pulled out the piece of wood.

7. This must have hurt the lion very much. But it lay quite still; it did not even growl. When the wood was out of its paw, it seemed very much pleased. It rubbed its head against the slave, and made a soft, purring noise as if it were trying to thank him.

8. Soon after this the slave was caught and taken back to his master. And about the same time some hunters caught the lion and sent it to the circus in Rome. Many wild beasts were kept there, and people used to go to look at them in their cages. Sometimes these beasts were let loose and prisoners were thrown to them.

9. The people of Rome liked to see

12. The lion gave a loud roar, and began to creep towards the poor slave. The man gave himself up for lost. But all at once the animal's angry roar changed to a soft cry of pleasure.* Instead of springing upon the slave, it ran to him, and rubbed against him.

13. It was the lion from whose paw he had taken the sharp piece of wood, and it had not forgotten him. • How glad the poor man was! He patted and stroked, the faithful animal, and spoke gently to it.

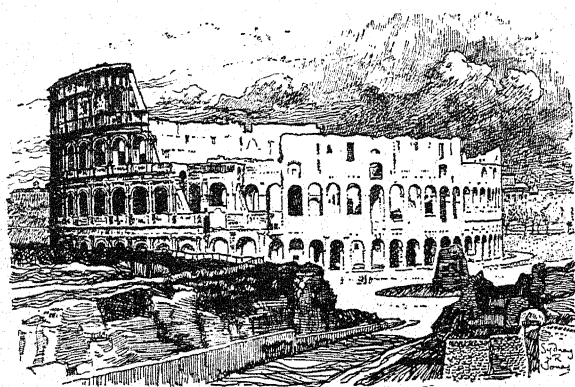
14. But the people were much surprised to see a man pat a fierce lion, as if it were a dog.

“What does this mean?” cried they. “Is the lion tame?” “Has the man a charm for wild beasts?”

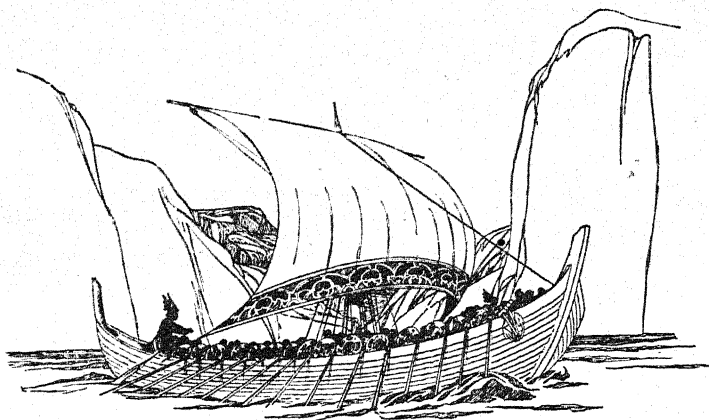
15. Then Androclus told his story. When the people heard how he had hidden in the lion's cave and pulled a

piece of sharp wood from the fierce beast's paw, they were more surprised than ever.

16. "He is a brave man," they shouted. "We will not see him killed. Set him free. He shall no longer be a slave." So Androclus was made a free man. He never went back to his cruel master. The story does not tell us if the lion was set free too, and sent back to its cave. But we may hope it was.



Ruins of the Colosseum, a great Roman Circus



A Viking Ship

A Clever Dog

1. The Danes were great sea-robbers in old times. They sailed from Denmark across the sea in their fast boats, and fought with the people of other lands, and robbed them. These robbers were called vikings.

2. The people of the other lands feared and hated the sea-robbers. When they saw the long low boats of their foes sailing towards their shores, they drove

their cattle and sheep into the forests, and hid their gold and silver.

3. But the Danes were clever at finding things. They took a great many cattle, and much gold and silver away to their own land.

4. There was once a clever dog who saved his master's cows from the Danes. King Olaf and his band of sea-robbers had come to Ireland. They had taken a great many cattle, and now they were driving the herd down to their boats.

5. In the herd were the cows of a poor man. He was very sad, for they were all he had, and he had no money to buy more. He feared his wife and children would starve. So he went to King Olaf and told his story, and begged to have the cows back again.

6. The king was not an unkind man, and he was sorry for the poor farmer.

"You may have your cows if you can

pick them out of the herd at once," said he. "But I will not let you stop the march, and waste the time of my men."



The poor man tells his story

7. There were hundreds of cows in the herd. The poor man could not have found his own at once among the rest. But Vige, his clever dog, could do so.

8. The dog was sent into the herd of cattle. In a few moments he had found one of his master's cows, and driven her out. Then he found another and another. Very soon the number which the man had asked for had been driven out of the herd.

9. Each of these cows was marked with the same mark, so the king knew that the dog had found the right ones. He was very pleased. He wished to buy the clever animal for a large sum of money.

10. The poor man would not sell his faithful dog, but he gave him to the king. And the king gave a gold ring to the man.

11. So clever Vige went away with the sea-robbers. He was treated well, and lived long. The old books say that King Olaf loved him as "the best of dogs".

A Boy who became King

1. One day, long ago, three little boys were playing beside a lake in Norway. They were princes, and their brother was the good King Olaf.

2. The king came out to see what the children were doing. He saw that the two elder boys were building houses and barns, and making fences round tiny fields. The youngest boy was floating chips of wood in a pool of water. This boy was only three years old. His name was Harald.

3. "What are those chips of wood?" asked the king.

"They are my warships," said little Harald.

The king smiled. "The time may come when you will have real warships," said he.

34 A Boy who became King

4. Then he called the two bigger boys to him. He asked them what they would like to have when they grew up.

5. "I should like to have land," said the eldest boy. "I should like that big piece of land which stretches out into the lake. I would sow corn upon it."

6. "I should like to have cows," said the second boy. "I should like so many cows, that when they came down to the lake to drink, there would not be room for one more."

7. Then the king went to the pool where little Harald was sailing his ships.

"And what would you like to have, my little man?" asked he.

8. "I will have men to follow me, and fight for me," said the child quickly. "I will have so many men that they will eat up all my brothers' corn and cows at one meal."

9. The king smiled again when he

The Last English Lord

I

1. One of the greatest names in English history is that of William the Conqueror. He was not an Englishman at all, but he came over from Normandy, where he was duke, and made himself king of the English. The lords of England had a sad time then; for he took away their lands and houses and money, and gave these things to his own Norman lords.

2. The English fought bravely, but they were not so strong as the Normans. One by one the leaders were beaten, and most of them became King William's men.

3. The last English lord who fought against the king was very strong and brave. Men called him the Wake be-



A Norman Knight

cause he was very watchful and wide-awake.

4. The Wake went to a wild, woody place, and made a camp there. A few of his friends went with him. There were lakes and marshes, and soft muddy ground on all sides of the camp. The Norman soldiers with their heavy armour and their horses could not ride over this soft

ground without sinking in the mud. And they did not know of the narrow safe path which led to the camp. It was hidden among the trees and rushes.

5. Soon many other Englishmen who hated the Normans went to the camp of the brave lord. At night the Wake and his men went to the castles and

farms of the Norman lords, and took away cattle and food and money. They said they had a right to these things, because William had stolen them from the English lords.

6. The Normans tried to save their goods, but the bold Englishmen fought so fiercely that they were never beaten. When the fight was over, they went back to their camp among the marshes. The Normans could never catch them.

7. At last King William thought of a way to reach the camp of the English robbers, who gave so much trouble to his Normans. He dug ditches in the marsh to drain away the water. Then he began to make a firm high road of stones and turf across the wet ground.

8. When the Wake heard that the king himself was come out against him, he made up his mind to go and see what William was like.

II

9. The Wake dressed himself in plain clothes, and got on his horse, and rode away to the king's castle. His horse had a rough coat. It looked like a farm horse which would not be able to run very fast. But it was the fastest horse in England.

10. The Wake met a potter carrying his pots on the road to the castle. He bought the man's pots, and changed clothes with him. Then he rode on.

11. He went into the kitchen of the castle, and asked the servants to buy his pots. The Norman servants made fun of the English potter. They pulled his hair, and trod on his toes.

12. At first the Wake did not lose his temper. But he was very angry when a servant threw a dish-cloth in

a soldier got chains to put on the Wake. He told the prisoner to hold up his leg for the chain. But the bold Wake knocked the man down. Then he took the soldier's sword and ran out of the door.

18. The soldiers outside the castle tried to stop him, but he drove them back with the sword. Then he jumped on his fast horse and galloped away.

19. But King William went on making his good road over the marshes. So at last the Wake had to leave his hiding-place and become the king's man.

20. William treated him well, and gave him back his lands. But the Norman lords did not forgive him. And after a time, twenty of them set upon him and killed him. The old story says that the brave Wake cut down sixteen of these lords before he was killed himself.



Soldiers of the Cross on the March

How Jerusalem was Taken

I

1. You will remember the story of the poor children who tried to go to the War of the Cross. They wanted to fight for Jerusalem where Christ died on the cross, and to take it away from the people who did not love and serve Him.

2. But they never reached that far-off city. Many of the poor little boys and girls died on the way. Others were taken by wicked men and sold as slaves.

3. But hundreds and thousands of men went to the Wars of the Cross. They

came from many lands. Rich men and poor men, kings and lords, masters and servants, all wanted to fight for Jerusalem. Every man wore a cross upon his coat or cloak. They were called the Soldiers of the Cross.

4. The men were stronger and wiser than the children. So they were able to go farther, and to take care of themselves. Some of them reached Jerusalem, and took it away at last from the Turks.

5. The Soldiers of the Cross were full of joy when they saw the towers of Jerusalem afar off. The horsemen got off their horses, and they and all the foot soldiers knelt down on the hard road. Then they prayed to God to help them to take the city.

6. These soldiers had many brave leaders. Tancred and Godfrey were two of the bravest and best. They led

46 How Jerusalem was Taken

their men to the walls of Jerusalem, and tried to take it at once. But they were driven back. Then they put up their tents, and made a camp outside the city.

7. There were no guns in those days, but men had big engines of wood instead. The Soldiers of the Cross had taken no engines with them, so they had to make some.

8. No big trees grew near Jerusalem, for the ground was too dry and hard. But Tancred had seen some tall trees thirty miles off. He took some men to this place, and cut down the trees and dragged them to the camp. This wood was made into three engines like tall towers.

9. In the dark of night the three towers were drawn close to the walls of Jerusalem. And in the early morning great stones and showers of arrows were thrown

Soldiers of the Cross began to lose heart.

13. Then Godfrey, lifting up his eyes, saw a horseman afar off on the Mount of Olives. The horseman wore shining armour. He held up a shield, and upon the shield was a red cross.

14. "See!" cried Godfrey, "it is Saint George who has come to help us. On, men! It is God's will that we win the city."

"It is God's will! It is God's will!" shouted the soldiers. And they dashed on fiercely.

15. Some jumped on to the walls from the top of the burning towers. Some climbed over the walls with ladders. Some broke a hole in the wall. They poured like a flood into the city.

16. The Turks could not stand against these fierce, eager soldiers, who cried, "It is God's will" as they fought. They

50 How Jerusalem was Taken

turned to fly, but many of them were killed. Jerusalem was taken.

17. Then Godfrey went to the grave where the body of Christ had been laid long years before. He knelt there, and thanked God who had helped him to take the city. After him the other leaders also knelt to thank God, and so did the soldiers.

18. Godfrey was made King of Jerusalem. But he would not put the crown on his head. He said it was not right for him to be crowned with gold in the city where Jesus Christ wore a crown of thorns upon his head.

19. He was a good man. He loved Jerusalem, and ruled it well. But he did not live long.

20. Tancred and a band of brave soldiers stayed there for many years to fight the battles of the city.



The Major Oak, Sherwood Forest

Robin Hood

I

1. Once upon a time a band of robbers lived in a big forest in England. They were brave and strong and merry men, and their leader was the bold Robin Hood.

2. To-day we put people in prison if they rob others. But at that time a great many things were done which we should not think right.

3. Robin and his men were not really bad men. They liked a free life. So they lived in the big forest, and shot the king's deer for food. When they wanted money or clothes, they stopped some rich man who was riding through the forest, and took away his purse and his fine cloak and coat.

4. But they did not rob the poor. They were kind to them and often gave them food and money. And they never hurt a woman, or a child, or any person who was sick or sad. So the poor people loved Robin and his merry men, but the rich people hated them.

5. One day Robin heard that three men were to be hanged in a town, because they had killed one of the king's deer.

6. "I will not let this thing be done," said the bold robber-chief. So he dressed himself in beggar's clothes that no man might know him, and went to the town.

His men waited on a hill not far off.

7. Before long the three men were brought out of prison. When the king's officer came to hang them, Robin spoke to him.

"Good sir!" said he, "will you let me be hang-man?"

8. Now the king's officer did not like the work of hanging a man, so he said:

"I will gladly let you be hang-man, old beggar man. And you shall have the fine clothes and the money of the men when they are dead."

9. "No," said Robin, "I do not want their clothes and their money, but I will have three blasts on my horn." Then he blew three loud blasts on his horn. And when his men heard the sound, they ran down the hill into the town.

10. "Whose men are these?" asked the officer.

"They are mine, and I am the bold

Robin Hood," said the beggar. "I have come to save these men."

11. The officer knew that he could not stop Robin from taking the prisoners away, for all the poor people in the town were ready to help the bold robber. So he set the three men free. And away they went into the forest to live with Robin and his merry men.

II

12. The rich people hated Robin Hood because he robbed them. Many of them tried to kill him. But Robin knew the big forest well. He hid among the trees, now here, now there, and no man could find him.

13. At last the king made up his mind to be Robin's friend, and to ask the bold leader and his men to come to live at court. Then there would be no more robbing in the forest.

14. So the king went himself, with five of his lords, to look for Robin. They dressed themselves like monks, in long cloaks and hoods, so that the robbers might not know them.



Shooting at the Target

15. Monks were men of peace; they did not fight. They helped the poor, and taught the children, and served in the churches. Robin Hood did not fear

monks, so he did not hide himself from them. They told him the wish of the king.

16. Robin loved his king, so he gave the visitors a good dinner. When dinner was over, a target or mark was set up under the trees, and the robbers shot at it with their bows and arrows.

17. If a man did not hit the target, he had a sharp box on the ear from Robin Hood. All this was done to amuse the monks. By and by Robin himself missed the target. Then he asked the chief monk to box his ear. And the monk gave Robin so hard a blow that he fell to the ground.

18. He was much surprised to find that a man of peace had so strong an arm. He looked closely in the monk's face, and saw that he was the king.

19. Then the robber-chief knelt down, and asked the king to forgive him and his men.

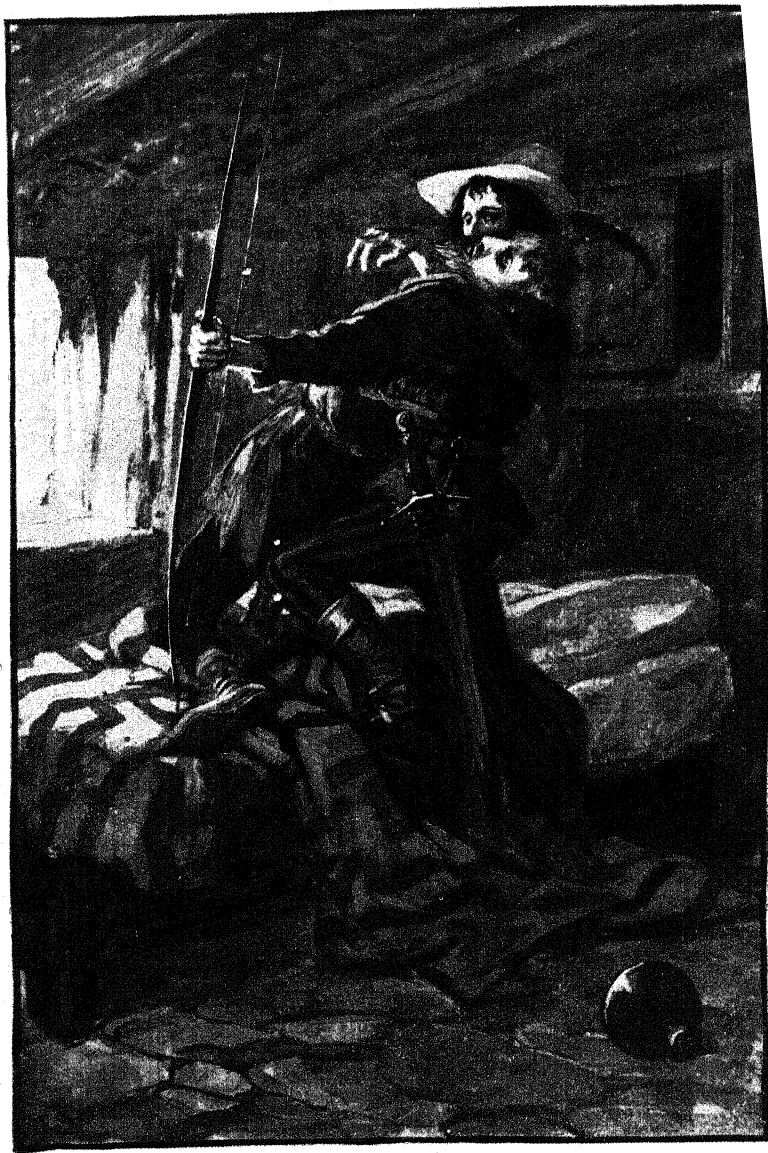
"Surely I will forgive you, good Robin, if you will come and live with me," said the king.

20. So Robin went to live at the court. But he did not stay there long. He could not bear to live in a house, and to be ruled by others. Soon he went back to the big forest, and there he lived for many years, and was very happy.

III

21. At last the bold Robin Hood became an old man. Then he fell ill. He went to the house of a woman to be cured, for he thought she was his friend.

22. But the woman was not a true friend. She wanted to please the rich people who hated Robin. She said she would take care of him and cure him, but instead of doing so, she cut a vein



ROBIN HOOD SHOOTS HIS LAST ARROW

in his arm. Then she went away, and left him alone in a room to bleed to death.

23. She locked the door, so that he could not go out. And he was too weak and ill to jump out of the high window. But Robin had his good horn, and he blew three blasts upon that. The blasts were not loud, for he was too weak to blow hard.

24. One of his men heard the sound of the horn. This man's name was Little John, and he dearly loved his master.

"I fear my master is near dead. He blows so softly," said Little John. He ran to the house of the woman, and broke down the door, and came to his master's side.

25. Robin was by this time weak and dying. Little John was very sad and angry to see him so.

"Let me burn this house and all in it," cried he. But his master would not let him do this.

"I have never hurt a woman while I lived, and I will not do so now that I am going to die," said he.

26. Then Robin asked for his bow and shot an arrow through the open window, out into the forest.

"Dig my grave at the place where you find that arrow," said he. "Lay a green sod under my head and another at my feet, and put my bent bow at my side that men may say when I am dead, 'There lies bold Robin Hood.'"

27. So Robin Hood died at last.

The arrow which he had shot from the window was found under a tree. A grave was dug in that place. And the bold robber-chief was buried as he wished to be, in the big green forest which he loved so well.

The Brave Men of Calais

I

1. Calais is in France. It is nearer to England than any other French town. This story tells how it was taken away from the French king by our English king, Edward the Third.

2. The people of Calais shut their gates when they saw the English soldiers coming to their town. King Edward knew that he could not break down the strong walls and gates. So he built a little town of huts outside the walls, and he and his men waited there.

3. They would not allow anyone to go inside or to come outside of the town. They meant to wait until the people of the town had eaten up all their food. Then they would have to open the gates, or they would starve.

4. At first the people of Calais had good hope. They thought the French king would come to help them, and drive away the English.

5. They gave a little food to each person every day, and waited. But no help came. Before long all the good food in the town was eaten, and the people became very hungry.

6. Then they ate their dogs and cats and horses. They even caught rats and ate them. But still no help came.

7. At last, when there was nothing more to eat, they knew that they could wait no longer. So they sent word to the English king that they would give up the town, if he would spare the lives of all the people in it.

8. But King Edward was angry because he had been kept waiting so long. He would not spare all the people. This is what he said:

II

13. It was sad to see the six brave men. They were very thin and pale from want of food, and they were so weak that they could hardly walk.

14. Their heads and feet were bare, and there were ropes around their necks. Their leader had the keys of the gates in his hands. They knelt on the ground before the English king, and the leader spoke.

15. "Gentle king," said he, "here are we, six men of Calais. We are chief men, and great merchants. We bring you the keys of our town and castle, and we give ourselves to you to save the rest of our people. We beg you in your kindness to have mercy on us."

16. The English soldiers wept to see and hear the brave men. But King Edward would not have pity upon them.

"This town shall be punished," said he. And he told the soldiers to cut off the heads of the six men.

17. Some of the English lords begged him to have mercy.

"Men call you a good king, but if you do this thing they will call you wicked and cruel," said they.

18. But the king would not hear them.

"Take the men away and cut off their heads," he said once more.

So the soldiers took hold of the ropes which were round the men's necks, and began to lead them away.

19. But the Queen of England had seen and heard all these things. Her heart was sad for the poor men, and she wept. Now she knelt down before the king, her husband.

20. "Gentle lord," said she, "I have sailed across the sea to see you, and you have given me no gift. Now, I beg

you, if you love me, to give me the lives of these brave men."

21. For a long time King Edward said no word. At last he spoke.

"Lady," said he, "I wish you had not been here, for when you beg so tenderly I cannot say no to you. I give you the men. Do with them as you please."

22. It pleased the good queen to give food and clothes and money to the six brave men. Then she sent them back to their town. So they and all the people of Calais were saved.



A Brave Man of Switzerland

(ARNOLD VON WINKELRIED, 1386)

I

1. The people of the beautiful country of Switzerland have always loved to be free.

2. The kings of bigger countries have often tried to take this little land for themselves. Sometimes they have beaten the Swiss people, and have ruled over them for a short time.

3. But the Swiss could not bear to have these kings for their masters. They fought again and again until they drove away their foes. Many brave Swiss soldiers were killed in these battles, but they gladly died to make their country free.

4. At one time a duke of Austria tried to make himself ruler of Switzerland.

Each man held his long spear before him, so that the sharp points of the spears made a wall of steel in front of the men.

8. The Swiss soldiers knelt down upon the ground, and prayed to God to help them, and to have mercy upon those who might be killed. Then they rushed upon their foes. But they could not break through the wall of sharp spear points, and could not reach their foes with their short spears and clubs.

9. Many of them were killed. The rest were driven back. Again they rushed forward, and again they were driven back, and many more were killed.

It seemed as if all would be lost.



II

10. Then a brave man thought of a way to break through the wall of steel. He was a poor countryman, and his name was Arnold.

"I will open a path of freedom, dear friends!" cried he. "Take care of my wife and children."

11. Then he rushed upon the foes with open arms. The duke's soldiers thought he must be mad to do such a thing. But they did not know his plan.

12. When he reached the wall of spears, Arnold clasped as many of the sharp points as he could reach in his arms, and pressed them all at once to his breast. By doing this he made a gap in the wall.

13. The rest of the Swiss soldiers were close behind him. As the brave Arnold



The Death of Arnold

fell to the ground dead with many spear points fixed in his body, they rushed into the gap which he had made.

14. Their short spears were of great use now that they were close to their foes. They fought fiercely. Many they stabbed, others they killed with the wooden clubs.

15. The duke's men were taken by

surprise. They could not do much harm with their long spears now that the Swiss were so near them. They began to be afraid; soon they lost heart, and then they turned to fly.

16. But their servants had led the horses away, so they could not ride. They tried to run over the mountains, but the Swiss soldiers soon caught them. The duke and many of his men were killed, and the rest were made prisoners.

17. So Switzerland was saved by Arnold, the poor countryman, and the Swiss people did not lose their freedom. We may be sure that they took good care of the wife and children of their brave friend.

18. Every year on the day of the battle they meet together in some parts of the country to show that they remember Arnold, and are thankful to him.

The Lost Princes

1. It is not always a good thing to be born a prince or a princess. Some princes and princesses have sad lives.

2. There were two unhappy little princes in England about the time when Caxton began to print his book. Their names were Edward and Richard, and they were sons of King Edward IV.

3. Their father died when they were quite young, and so Prince Edward should have been King of England. But the poor boys had a wicked uncle, who wanted to be king himself. So he sent the little princes to the strong Tower of London, out of the way.

4. He told the English people that he had done this because he wished the boys to be safe, until Edward was old enough to wear the crown and rule

the land. But this was not true. In his heart the wicked uncle was trying to find a way to get rid of the princes.

5. Edward and Richard were afraid of their uncle. He smiled and spoke kindly to them, but they knew that he did not love them. They were afraid too of the big dark place to which he had sent them.

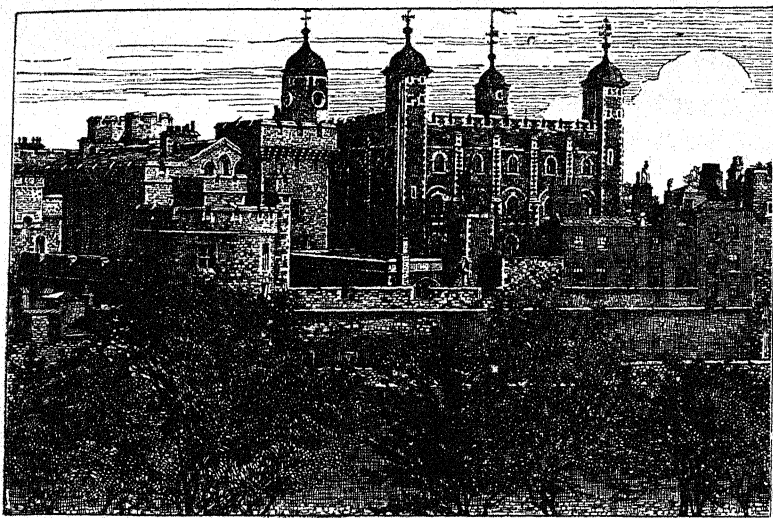
6. "I do not like the Tower," said Edward.

"I shall not sleep in quiet here," said Richard.

But their uncle laughed at their fears. "There is nothing here to be afraid of," said he.

7. One morning when a lord went to waken the little princes, they were not to be found. Their bed was empty. Their uncle said he did not know where they were, and he pretended to be very sad because they were lost.

8. The people thought he had killed the poor boys. Some said he sent two bad men to smother them with pillows



The Tower of London

when they were asleep. But most people were afraid of the wicked uncle, so nobody dared to punish him.

9. He took the crown for himself and ruled the land. But he did not live long. He was not a good king, and his people hated him. By and by some

of them fought with him and he was killed.

10. Two hundred years after that some men were at work in the Tower. They took up the stone floor at the foot of a stair. There they found a box, and in this box were the bones of two young boys. Most likely they were the bones of poor little Edward and Richard, which their wicked uncle had hidden in that place.



Where the box was found

lords and ladies. The palaces were bright with gold and silver, and the tents were not made of canvas, but of silk and cloth of gold. So much gold was to be seen shining in the sun, that the place was called the Field of Cloth of Gold.

6. It was a gay sight. There were sham castles and pretty gardens, and lions made of gold, and many other beautiful things. There were fountains running with wine instead of water. Every man was free to help himself to the wine.

7. This great show lasted for ten days. And every day, from morning till evening, there were feasts, and games, and sham fights.

8. The kings played games, and had sham fights with each other, and with their lords. And the queens and their ladies looked on.

9. People went in crowds to see such grand doings. They watched the games,

82 The Field of Cloth of Gold

and the fights, and drank wine from the fountains. They saw the two kings sign their names on paper, and kiss one another, and promise to be friends. Then the people shouted and cheered.

10. Before the show was over King Henry gave King Francis a golden collar, and King Francis gave King Henry a rich bracelet.

They kissed again when they said good-bye. The people thought they were true friends.

11. But in their hearts the two kings did not love one another. Very soon the soldiers of England were sent to fight with the soldiers of France.

The grand doings at the Field of Cloth of Gold had been a show and nothing more. Such things were often done in the old times.



A Dyke on the Dutch Coast

How the Sea won a Battle

I

1. Holland is a very flat country; it has no mountains. Many hundred years ago the sea washed over some of the lowest parts of the land. Then the people made great walls to keep the waves back. These walls are called dykes.

2. It was hard work to do this, and it cost much money. But it was worth doing. There are now green fields and houses and gardens full of flowers upon land which was once at the bottom of the sea.

3. The city of Leyden stands in the midst of green and fruitful country which has been saved from the sea. It is a fine city with good houses and wide streets. Upon a mound in the middle of the town there is a high tower.

4. One summer, more than three hundred years ago, the people of Leyden were in a sad state. They were shut up in their city, and they had not enough food to eat.

5. Outside the city there was a big army of soldiers. The soldiers came from Spain. Philip, King of Spain, was a cruel man, and he wanted to make all people worship God in his

thought that the people would open their gates, and do as the king wished, as soon as the food was all eaten. If they did not do so, they would die of hunger.

11. But the soldiers of Spain did not know how brave the men and women of Holland were. The people of Leyden said they would rather starve than give up their city.

II

12. Before long most of the food in Leyden was eaten. Then the people wrote letters to their friends in other cities of Holland. They told their friends of their sad state, and asked for help.

13. They could not send men to carry these letters, for the soldiers would let nobody go out of the city. So they rolled the letters into tiny rolls, and tied them under the wings of carrier-pigeons. Away flew the pigeons, high above the

heads of the soldiers, and carried the letters to the other cities.

14. The people of these cities caught the pigeons and read the letters. They were very sorry for their friends in Leyden. But they could not send food to them, for they had not enough men to beat the Spanish soldiers.

15. There was only one thing to be done. William the Silent, who led the men of Holland, thought of this thing. He was called William the Silent because he could keep a secret well. His plan was to make holes in the dykes and let the sea roll over the land, as it had done in the old times before the walls were built.

16. The sea would do much harm to the fields, and houses, and gardens. But it would drive away their foes. The Spanish soldiers would have to run away, or they would be drowned.



Sending Letters from Leyden

17. Letters were written to the people of Leyden to tell them that the sea would bring them help. Pigeons carried these letters to the city.'

18. The poor hungry people were very glad to have this news. All their good food was now eaten. There was nothing left to eat but dogs, and cats, and rats. So they ate these, and waited for help.

90 How the Sea won a Battle

19. Every day some of the starving men went to the top of the tower to see if the waves were rolling over the land. But the sea was long in coming.

20. Holes had been made in the dykes, but the water did not spread quickly over the country. The wind blew from off the land, and kept the sea back. It seemed as if the poor people of Leyden would all be dead before help came.

— 21. But one night there was a storm. The strong wind blew from off the sea. It drove the big waves fast over the land, till the flood reached the camp. Then at last the Spanish soldiers ran away in great fear.

22. Very soon ships full of good food sailed over the flooded land to the city of Leyden. The brave people were saved.

4. Elizabeth heard what the King of Spain was doing. But she was not afraid; for though she had not many ships or soldiers, she trusted her people. She called every man to cōme to help his country.

5. Almost every man came. Some said they would fight, sōme gave money and guns and horses; others built ships. Soon all was ready.

6. Men stood upon the hilltops near the sea to watch for the Spanish ships. Bonfires were made ready, and as soon as the ships were seen, the fires would be lighted. When the men saw the blazing fires, they would know that it was time to go out and fight.

7. It was on a fine summer afternoon that the watchers on the hills saw the Great Armada coming. The Spanish ships were very big. They were as high as towers, and there were a great many

of them. Very fine they looked as they came sailing on.

8. The bonfires were soon lighted on the English hills, and men ran quickly to the shore and to their ships.



The Game of Bowls

9. Some great English captains were playing a game of bowls on a green near the sea. A few of these captains started at once for their ships. But Drake, the greatest man of them all, called them back.

"There will be plenty of time to finish our game, and to beat the Spaniards too," said he.

10. So the game was played out. When it was ended, the great captains went on board their ships and sailed away.

That was the quiet way in which the English went out to meet the Great Armada of Spain.

II

11. Queen Elizabeth had not nearly so many ships as the King of Spain. And her ships were small.

12. The Spanish captains laughed at them. They thought their big ships with their heavy guns would soon blow the little English ships to pieces, or sink them. They sailed on, firing their guns as they went.

13. But the guns were so high up on

the big ships, that most of the shots passed right over the little English ships without touching them.

14. The English ships were not fine to look at, but they could move very quickly because they were small and light. The big Spanish ships moved slowly.

15. The English captains fired at them, and made holes in the sides of many of them. Some sank, while others had to stop and were taken by the English.

16. The Spanish captains could not sail away from the fast little English ships, and they could not catch them. So at last they stopped near the shore, and waited for other ships and soldiers that were coming to help them.

17. But the English found a good way of driving them out to sea. They filled eight of their own ships with

things which burn well and quickly. One night, after dark, a few men steered these ships close to the Armada. Then they set them on fire, and rowed away quickly in their little boats.

18. There was a great blaze in the dark night. The Spaniards were much afraid that the burning ships would set their own on fire. So they cut their ropes and sailed away. The English ships sailed after them and fired at them.

19. Then a storm came on. The Armada was in a sad state. Some of the ships were taken by the English, and some were sunk by the storm.

20. After a time the English captains stopped and went back. But the Spaniards sailed on, hoping to get back to their own land by another way. But it was not a safe way, for the waves were wild and the wind was strong.

21. Many of the ships were driven on the sharp rocks, and the men in them were drowned. Only a few of the ships ever reached home again.

22. The King of Spain was very sad at the loss of his fine ships and brave men. For a long time he did not speak. But Queen Elizabeth and her people were very glad. She had many medals made, and on the medals these words were written in Latin: "God blew with his winds, and they were scattered". Some of these medals can still be seen.



One of the Armada Medals

How a King stopped a Fight

1. We think it right for a man to fight for his king and his country. But it is not right to fight for small reasons.

2. In old days there was too much fighting. Men fought for all sorts of small and foolish reasons. If one man was rude to another there was a fight. If two men could not agree, they had to fight before they could make up their quarrel.

3. They fought about their houses and their wives, their dogs and their horses, their drink and their food. There was no end to it. Very often a man was killed in these fights, and many lives were lost in this way. It was very sad.

4. A wise King of Sweden made up his mind to stop these foolish fights among his soldiers. His name was

100 How a King stopped a Fight

Gustavus. One day he heard that two of his officers had had a quarrel, and were going to fight.

"Very well," said the king, "I will go to see that fight."

5. At the time fixed, the king went down to the field where the fight was to be. He took with him some soldiers and the headsman. The headsman was the man who cut off the heads of prisoners who had to die.

6. The two officers were already on the field, and some of their friends with them. The king looked quietly at the officers. "Begin your fight, gentlemen," said he, "and go on fighting until one of you is killed."

7. Then he spoke to the headsman who stood beside him, and said: "As soon as one of these officers has been killed in the fight, you are to cut off the head of the other one."

A Ship-wreck which Brought Good Fortune

I

1. A ship-wreck often brings bad fortune. The ship may be lost or broken, so that it is of no more use, and sometimes the people in it are drowned.

2. But there was once a ship-wreck which brought good fortune. The ship which was wrecked was going from Holland to India, and there were many Dutchmen on board.

3. It took a long time to go to India in those days. Long before the journey came to an end, the fruit and vegetables and fresh meat on the ships were all eaten. Then the sailors had to eat salt meat and dry biscuits.

4. Sometimes the drinking water turned

bad. Then the sailors often became ill. People cannot keep well if they do not have plenty of green food to eat, and fresh water to drink.

5. Sometimes captains stopped their ships for a short time near the coast of South Africa. They sent men in little boats to the land to fill the casks of the ship with fresh water, and to buy meat from the black people who lived there.

6. The ship full of Dutchmen which was going to India, stopped in this way at a part of the sea called Table Bay. While it was there a storm came on, and in the storm the ship was driven on the beach.

7. It was so much broken that it was of no more use. But all the people were saved, and they were able to get their goods safely out of the ship.

8. The poor men looked at the wild

land around them. They saw mountains and trees and wide plains where grass grew. There were no towns, or roads, or railways, or cornfields, or gardens. At night they heard the wild beasts roar.

9. The Dutchmen found a stream of fresh water not far away. It is good to live near fresh water, so they cut down some trees, and built huts upon the bank of the stream. Then they made a high wall of earth to shelter their huts and keep off the wild beasts.

10. This was their new home. They hoped that a ship would soon pass by, and take them back to their own land.

II

11. There were some seeds among the things which were saved from the wrecked ship. The Dutchmen made a garden on the bank of the stream, and planted these seeds. The rain and the sun made them

grow very fast, and soon there were many nice vegetables in the garden.

12. But before this time a party of black men had come to the place. They had many shêep and cattle. They drove their beasts from one place to another to find fresh grass for them to eat.

13. The black people were very friendly. They sold sheep and cattle to the white men. They worked for them too, and helped them to drive away the wild beasts.

14. The Dutchmen paid the black men with knives, and clothes, and other useful things from the ship. They now had fresh water and meat and green food. They began to find their new home a pleasant place.

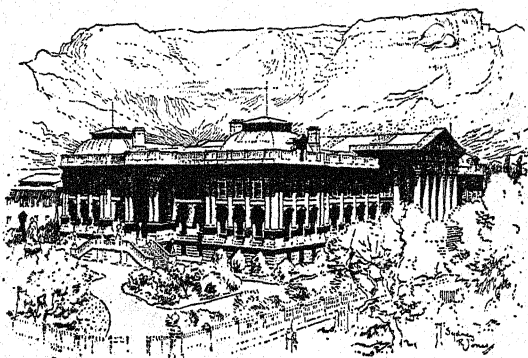
15. By and by a ship passed that way, and took the Dutchmen back to their own land. They told the people of Holland that South Africa was a

with big towns and good roads and railways, and fruitful farms and gardens. Gold and diamonds are found in some places.

21. Englishmen and Dutchmen live there together, and make one nation. It is called the South African Union.

22. A fine city called Cape Town stands near the place where the first garden was made, on the bank of the stream, by the Dutchmen who were saved from the wreck.

23. We must not forget that it was these men who began to turn a wild land into a good country.



Houses of Parliament, Cape Town

A Great Sea Fight

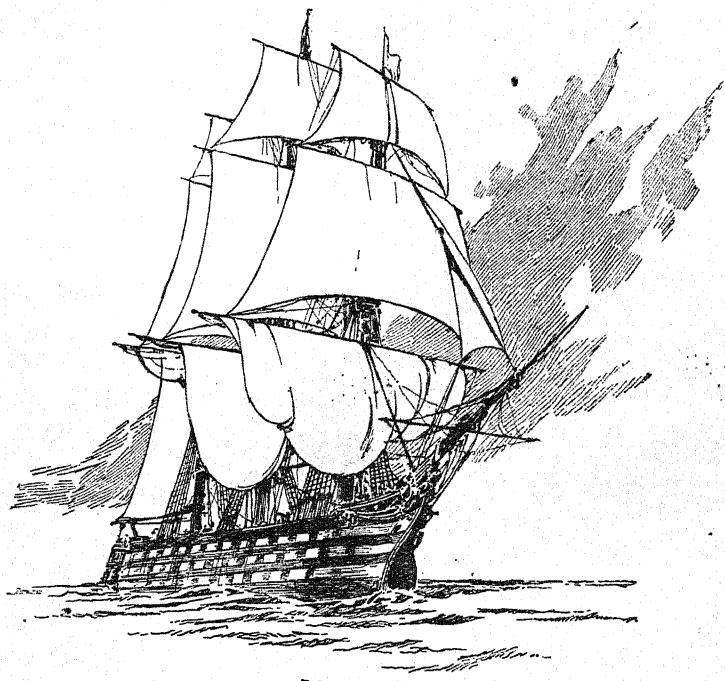
1. Very early one morning a great many ships were sailing on the sea near the coast of Spain. They were the warships of France and Spain, and they were looking for the British warships. The British ships were waiting for them not far off.

2. It was more than a hundred years ago. The great French soldier Napoleon had won battles in many lands. Now he had made up his mind to bring a big army of soldiers to England, to beat the British.

3. You may be sure that the British people did not mean to let him do that if they could help it. They sent out their warships to stop him. That is why they were waiting.

4. The British had not nearly so many

ships as their foes. But their leader was the best seaman in the world; his name was Nelson.



The Victory

The old oak man-o'-war in which Nelson led the fleet to victory at Trafalgar

5. It was the same Nelson who said, when he was a little boy, "I never saw fear." Nelson never did see fear; he was always brave. His sailors loved

him; "Our Nel is as brave as a lion and as gentle as a lamb," said they.

6. On that day, when the French and Spanish ships came near, Nelson sent a last message to all his men. These were the words of the message: "England expects that every man will do his duty". The men cheered when they heard it.

7. Then the battle began. It was a fierce fight. The French and Spanish seamen were brave, but they had no chance against Nelson and his men. The British were fighting to save their land and their homes, and they loved their leader. They liked better to die than to be beaten. Every man did his best.

8. Before the fight was over, many of the warships of the foes had been taken. The great Napoleon was beaten. He would never be able to bring his soldiers across the sea to England.

9. There was great joy in England.

But the people were sad too, for their brave leader was dead. Nelson had been shot in the battle. Yet he lived long enough to hear that the battle was won; and he died happy because he had saved his country.

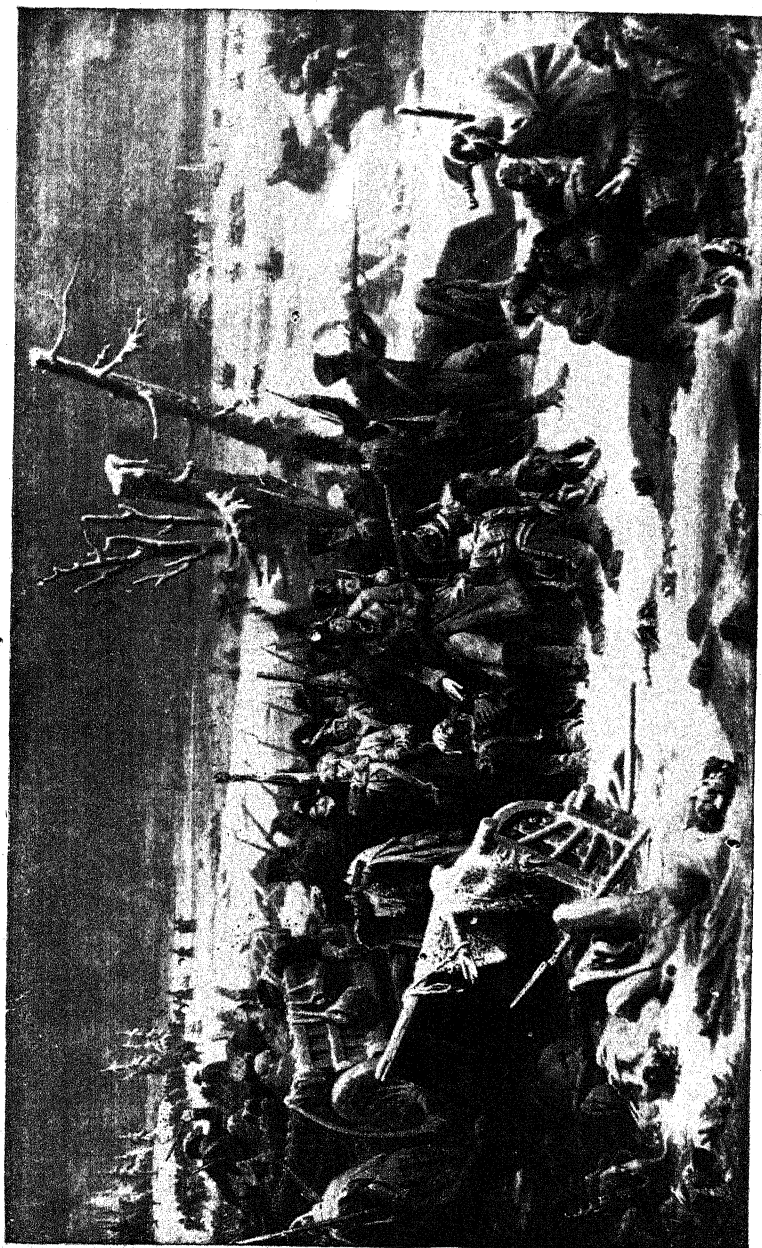
10. "Thank God, I have done my duty." These were the last words he spoke.

Beaten by Ice and Snow

I

1. You have read of the boy Napoleon, and of the games of soldiers he played with his school-fellows in the snow.

2. When Napoleon grew to be a man he was a great soldier. He led the soldiers of France to battle with the soldiers of other lands, and beat them. After he had beaten them, he made them fight for him.



THE RETREAT FROM MOSCOW

From the painting by Adolphe Yvon in the City Art Gallery, Manchester

3. He liked fighting more than he liked anything else. If he could win a battle, he did not care how many of his men were killed.

4. Napoleon went from land to land, fighting and winning battles for France. The people of other lands hated and feared him, but there came a time when this great soldier was beaten.

5. He led a great army to the far-off land of Russia. There were thousands and thousands of soldiers in that army. It was called the Grand Army.

6. The soldiers came from many lands. Some of them did not want to fight with the people of Russia. But they had to; Napoleon would have shot those who tried to run away.



Napoleon (from the painting by Delaroche)

7. Russia is a very big country. It is very cold there in winter. Winter was coming on when the Grand Army marched through the land.

8. The French leader did not take much food for his men. He told them to steal food from the Russian houses and farms as they marched on.

9. But the way led through forests and wild land, and there were not many houses or farms where food could be got. Before long the men became tired and hungry, but Napoleon cheered them on.

10. "When you reach the big city of Moscow," said he, "there will be plenty of food and clothes and money for you."

So the tired soldiers marched on, thinking of the good things they would have when they got to Moscow.

II

11. The people of Russia were ready for their foes. They had not so many soldiers as Napoleon, but men came from the castles, and the fields, and the shops, to fight for their country. They made a big army, but it was not so large as the Grand Army.

12. The Russians tried to stop the French from getting to Moscow. They fought a battle with them on the banks of a river, but they could not stop the great Napoleon. At last they had to go away and leave the road to Moscow open.

13. Then the tired and hungry French soldiers marched on. They rushed into the fine old city. Now they hoped to have nice food, and warm clothes, and good houses to rest in.

14. But the houses were empty, and

the streets were empty, and the shops were empty. No food was to be found. The people of Moscow had taken all the food, and gone away from the city.

15. How angry the French soldiers were! Napoleon was more angry than any of his men. They went into the empty houses to sleep.

16. Then in the night the Russians came back to the city and set the houses on fire. Soon the whole city was in a blaze, houses fell, and the streets were blocked with burning wood.

17. The French soldiers could not stay there. Tired and hungry they had to march back again; and a very sad march it was.

18. Winter had come. Snow fell thickly, and the icy ground was as hard as iron. It was bitterly cold.

19. Some of the tired men could go

no farther, but fell down and died. Others died of hunger. At night watch-fires were lighted, and the men lay down beside them to sleep. When morning came, many of the men did not get up. They were frozen.

20. Napoleon got into his carriage and drove away. He was selfish; he did not care about his poor men, now that there were no battles to win. But a few brave officers tried to cheer the soldiers, and help them on their way.

21. They had nothing to eat or drink, so the horses were killed for food, and the snow melted for drink. Sometimes the Russian soldiers came to fight with the poor tired French soldiers. The Russians could beat them easily now, and thousands of the French were killed.

22. Only a few sad and weary men reached their homes again. They were all that was left of the Grand Army.



The Men of the *Sarah Sands*

1. It is not only in battles that men can be brave. A great many brave deeds have been done on ships at sea in times of peace.

2. Not so very long ago a ship called the *Sarah Sands* went out to sea. Three hundred British soldiers and their wives

and children sailed in this ship. They were going to India. There were stores too in the *Sarah Sands*, and a cabin full of casks of gunpowder.

3. One day when the ship was not far from land, there was a cry of "Fire!" Some of the stores were on fire. The sailors poured water on the flames, but they could not put them out.

4. Then the leader of the soldiers told his men to throw the casks of gunpowder into the sea. This must be done quickly, for if the fire reached the powder the ship would be blown to pieces.

5. It was not a safe thing to do. The flames were very near the cabin, and at any moment a spark might reach it. But the brave soldiers did their duty. Very soon the casks were thrown into the sea. One cask blew up and broke a hole in the ship, but nobody was hurt.

6. The fire went on spreading till half

the ship was ablaze. The women and children were put into the small boats for safety, but the men stayed on the ship and tried to save it. For two days they worked hard, and they won at last. The fire was put out.

7. But the poor people were not yet safe. Now came another danger, for the wind rose and the sea became rough. The ship was already almost a wreck. Great holes had been burned in it, and it seemed as if the wild waves would break it to pieces.

8. But the soldiers and sailors did not lose heart. They had fought the fire; now they fought the sea. They stopped the holes with sails and blankets, and they passed a chain under the ship to keep it from breaking up.

9. At last the sea grew calm, and the captain was able to steer his ship to land. Every person was saved. But

The Penny Post

1. The postman brings our letters to the door every day. A letter goes a long way for a penny. It travels very quickly in a mail train.

2. A hundred years ago people had to pay one or two shillings for a letter, and it took a long time to reach the end of its journey. There were no trains in those days. Letters were carried by postboys who rode on horses. They could not go very fast, for the roads were bad. When better roads were made, mail coaches carried the letters between the big towns.

3. There were no postage stamps then. The postman had to collect the money for the letters before he gave them up.

4. One day a young man named Rowland Hill saw a postman go to a cottage

with a letter. A girl came out of the cottage and looked at it. But she did not open it, she gave it back to the postman.

5. The young man felt sorry for her.



A Mail Coach in the Old Days

He thought she had no money to pay for the letter, so he paid the postman and gave it to her.

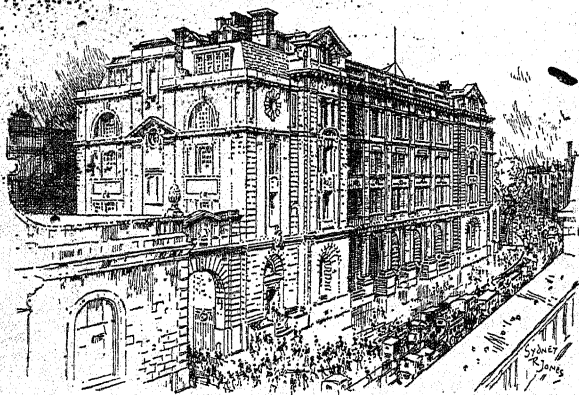
6. When the postman was gone, the

girl told Rowland Hill that it was a pity he had done so, for there was nothing written in the letter. Her brother was in London. Both he and she were poor, and they had no money for letters. So he sent a plain sheet of paper by post now and then, to show her that he was well.

7. When Rowland Hill heard this story, he began to think. And this is what he thought: "Poor people would be happier if postage was cheaper, for they could then write more letters to their friends. It would cost the Post Office no more money to send many letters for a penny each, than to send few letters for one or two shillings each. If stamps were stuck upon the letters to pay for them, the postman would not have to waste his time by stopping at the houses to collect pennies for the letters."

8. At first people laughed at these thoughts of Rowland Hill. They said a letter could not be carried for a penny. But by and by they began to think as he did.

9. Now we know that he was quite right. A letter is taken to any part of the British Empire for a penny. People send so many penny letters that the Post Office is much richer than it was in the old days, when only a few of the dearer letters were sent.



The General Post Office, London